

Message Text

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SUBJECT: WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS - FEB. 4-10, 1977

I. PSYCHOLOGICAL

1. INVESTIGATE, CRITICIZE, BUT BE CAREFUL* - THERE HAS BEEN LITTLE BREAKING NEWS ON SUBJECTS OF CONCERN TO THE UNITED STATES OVER THE PAST TWO WEEKS, BUT PRESIDENT MARCOS TOOK IT UPON HIMSELF TO REOPEN TWO IMPORTANT ISSUES: PRESS FREEDOM AND NATIONAL SECURITY. IN A SPEECH LATE LAST WEEK BEFORE A GATHERING OF PROVINCIAL EDITORS AND PUBLISHERS, PRESIDENT MARCOS CRITICIZED CORRUPTION IN THE PRESS, IN THE FORM OF BUYING OR BULLYING REPORTERS, AND WENT ON TO RE-DEFINE FREEDOM OF THE PRESS UNDER MARTIAL LAW. HE URGED JOURNALISTS TO BE CAUTIOUS IN REPORTING STORIES ABOUT GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS WITHOUT FULLY INVESTIGATING THEM, WHILE WE ENCOURAGED EXPOSES. "CRITICISM OF THE GOVERNMENT IS NOT SUBVERSION," THE PRESIDENT SAID, "YOU CAN CRITICIZE PUBLIC OFFICIALS AND GOVERNMENT POLICIES BUT I PREFER YOU CRITICIZE GOVERNMENT POLICIES BECAUSE THAT IS PROPER DISSENT AND LEGITIMATE CRITICISM."

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COMMENTARY ON THE SPEECH WAS SPARSE, BUT THE BULLETIN TODAY OFFERED A LAUDATORY EDITORIAL:

"..ONE CANNOT MINIMIZE THE VALUE HE PLACES ON THE FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION...THE PRESS MAY BE FREE TO CRITICIZE, BUT IT MUST HAVE REASONABLE GROUNDS. IT IS UNFAIR TO CRITICIZE A POLICY OR AN OFFICIAL ACT WITHOUT KNOWING MUCH ABOUT THE SUBJECT...THE PRESS

CANNOT BE ARROGANT...THE PRESIDENT'S VIEWS ON THE PRESS SHOW THE BREADTH OF HIS UNDERSTANDING OF THIS PARTICULAR INSTITUTION."

THE DAILY EXPRESS' EDITORIAL ON THE SUBJECT FOCUSED ON THE CHARGE OF CURRPT NEWSMEN, ADMITTING THAT SUCH EXIST, BUT NOTING THAT THE EXPRESS AND OTHER BIG PAPERS PAY GOOD SALARIES TO DISCOURAGE BRIBE TAKING, AND THAT THE EXPRESS WILL NOT TOLERATE ANY WRONG-DOING BY ITS STAFFERS.

EXPRESS COLUMNIST TEODORO VALENCIA DEMURRED THAT: "CONSIDERING THE POOR PAY THAT REPORTERS GET, THE WONDER IS THAT MANY STILL WANT TO JOIN THE PRESS." HE COMPLAINED THAT THIS IS ESPECIALLY TRUE OF PROVINCIAL PAPERS AND ACCOUNTS FOR THEIR POOR QUALITY.

2. THE STORY OF VIETNAM - THE STORY OF VIETNAM, SAID PRESIDENT MARCOS IN A SPEECH TO THE ARMED FORCES COMMAND AND GENERAL STAFF COLLEGE THIS WEEK, WILL BE THE STORY OF "ANY NATION THAT PERSISTS IN MAKING ITS OWN DEFENSE AND SECURITY THE RESPONSIBILITY OF ANOTHER COUNTRY."

"TREATIES AND ALLIANCES HAVE FAILED, "HE SAID, NOT IN TIMES OF PEACE, BUT IN TIMES OF WAR." SO SAYING, THE PRESIDENT ORDERED A COMPLETE REVIEW OF THE PHILIPPINES' DEFENSE REQUIREMENTS AND CAPABILITIES, SIMILAR TO THE BROOKINGS INSTITUTIO'S REPORT ON NATIONAL PRIORITIES, WHICH HE PRAISED HIGHLY. THE SPEECH WAS TELECAST LIVE AND BANNERED IN EVERY DAILY, "FM ORDERS STUDY OF US BASES HERE", "RP TO EXAMINE BASES CONCEPT," ETC.

COMMENTARY, HOWEVER, WAS SURPRISINGLY SCANTY, WITH ONLY KERIMA UNCLASSIFIED

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POLOTAN'S ORIENT NEWS RUNNING AN EDITORIAL, "ARE BASES NECESSARY?" WHICH CONCLUDED THAT THEY ARE NOT. IN THE DAILY EXPRESS, VALENCIA COMMENTED THAT "US BASES POSE RISKS TO NATIONAL SECURITY." NOT ONLY ARE THE BASES OF NO USE TO THE PHILIPPINES, HE CLAIMED, THEY INHIBIT THE PHILIPPINES FROM MAKING NEW FRIENDS AND THEY INVITE ATTACK. "EVEN IN THE CONTEXT OF PRE-WORLD WAR II MILITARY REALITIES, THOSE AMERICAN BASES ATTRACTED JAPANESE ATTACKS LIKE SUGAR ATTRACTS ANTS," VALENCIA REMINDED HIS READERS.

IN THE BULLETIN TODAY, 8APOLONIO BATALLA DEVOTED A RAMBLING PIECE TO NATIONAL SECURITY WHICH DID NOT MENTION THE PRESIDENT'S SPEECH BUT WHICH GUARDEDLY CAUTIONED THAT, ALTHOUGH EVERYTHING SEEMS PEACEFUL NOW, ONE NEVER KNOWS WHEN FRIENDS LIKE INDONESIA MIGHT BECOME UNFRIENDLY..."THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF MEN AND NATIONS CHANGE OVER TIME."

3. DOROY VS. TIME, NEWSWEEK - VALENCIA ALSO RENEWED HIS ATTACKS ON THE AMERICAN PRESS THIS WEEK, CALLING THE INTRODUCTION TO ROY ROWAN'S INTERVIEW WITH PRESIDENT MARCOS IN THE FEB.7 ISSUE OF TIME

INSULTING AND CONDESCENDING AS IT "DISMISSED THE PRESIDENT'S INSISTENCE ON SOVEREIGNTY AS SOME SORT OF FOOLISH DREAM AND NATIONAL PRIDE AS SILLY." IN PRACTICE, HE ASSERTED, AMERICAN JOURNALISM IS "IMPERIALISM IN ALL CAPS." AND HE WENT AFTER NEWSWEEK'S REVIEW OF "GAMU GAMO," A MELODRAMATIC FILM PLAYING UP BASE TRANSGRESSIONS AGAINST FILIPINOS. HE SAID THAT NEWSWEEK LABELED THE FILM AS GOVERNMENT PROPAGANDA. HE DENIED THAT, SAYING IT ALL HAPPENED, AND IT "IS, IN FACT, ELIGIBLE AS A FILM DOCUMENTARY. TRUTH HURTS."

II. SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITIES

SMITH LECTURES SUCCESSFUL - VOLSPKR PETER SMITH DELIVERED TWO LECTURES, ONE AT THE METROPOLITAN MUSEUM ON PHOTOGRAPHY AS ART AND THE OTHER AT CCP ON VIDEO AS ART. THE FIRST WAS ATTENDED BY A CAPACITY AUDIENCE OF MORE THAN 100 AND THE SECOND BY A SELECT GROUP OF

15-20. BOTH GROUPS CONTAINED A HIGH PROPORTION OF PRIMARY AUDIENCE
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